

VZCZCXR05416

PP RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDF RUEHDIR RUEHIK RUEHKUK RUEHLZ RUEHROV

DE RUEHNC #0514 1651445

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 141445Z JUN 07

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7919

INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0876

UNCLAS NICOSIA 000514

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

TO EUR/SE AND NEA/IR RMCINTURFF

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL KDEM IR CY PHUM EUN

SUBJECT: CYPRUS TO BE HELPFUL WITHIN EU ON FURTHER
STATEMENTS REGARDING IRANIAN HARASSMENT/DETENTION OF AMCITS

REF: STATE 80300

(SBU) Poloff June 12 delivered reftel points to MFA Near East Affairs Attaché Dionysis Dionysiou. Dionysiou responded June 13 that Cyprus likely would not take any unilateral action over the recent harassment/detention of private Americans by the Iranian regime. For various reasons, Cyprus had little hope of influencing Teheran, he explained. Despite each maintaining an embassy in the other's territory, for example, Iranian-Cypriot relations were not close. To prove the point, he noted that the Iranian Ambassador to Cyprus had visited the MFA only once, for his courtesy call on Foreign Minister Lillikas. In Tehran, the Cypriot Embassy was being run by a TDYer in the wake of a recent scandal involving its former ambassador; the official was too busy with internal management issues to do any bilateral work. Further, Cyprus was a small island state with few carrots and no sticks to employ with the GoI. The picture was somewhat brighter on the multilateral front, however. Dionysiou assured Poloff that Cyprus supported the recent EU Presidency Statement against Iran's recent actions. It also was open to a French proposal to include in the Council Conclusions for next week's GAERC meeting a statement urging the protection of academics and dual nationals visiting Iran.

ZIMMERMAN